

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A fastening device, comprising:

[[(a)]] a lock piece ~~is forced slidably disposed in a case and biased by a spring~~ [[to]] toward a fastening position wherein it is engage with an axial member in a case, and

~~(b) when the axial member is inserted into the case, the lock piece moves back from the axial member;~~

~~(c) later, the lock piece is engaged with the axial member so as to be fastened with the axial member; and~~

a releasing member ~~is jointed together~~ connected with the lock piece in such a way that ~~the releasing member is provided by a pin and disposed in the case, said releasing member being configured for manual bias~~ [[so as]] to move linearly so as toward the axial member and to release displace the lock piece away from the fastening position, thereby releasing the lock piece from the axial member.

2. (Currently amended) The fastening device described in claim 1, wherein

[[(1)]] said releasing member ~~can move linearly moves~~ in the direction perpendicular to the insertion direction of the axial member, and

[[(2)]] said spring forces the releasing member to move in the direction perpendicular with respect to and away from the insertion direction of the axial member, ~~so that said spring forces the lock piece to engage with the axial member via the releasing member.~~

3. (Currently amended) The fastening device described in claim 1, wherein

[[(1)]] guide grooves that extend in the direction perpendicular to the insertion direction of the axial member, are formed on [[the]] outer surface of the case,

[[(2)]] the releasing member has guide arms that slide in the guide grooves, and

[[(3)]] the guide arms and the lock piece are ~~jointed together by means of a~~ are interconnected by the pin.

4. (Currently Amended) The fastening device described in claim 1, wherein
[[(1)]]] the case has a slope that extends away from the axial member in the insertion direction of the axial member, and
[[(2)]]] ~~there are formed in the case (a) a tapered section on which the lock pieces slide, and (b) a supporting wall that faces the tapered section and supports the outer surface of the axial member with which the lock pieces engage~~ the lock piece has an angled surface which is configured to slide on the slope.
5. (Currently amended) The fastening device described in claim 2, wherein
[[(1)]]] guide grooves that extend in the direction perpendicular to the insertion direction of the axial member, are formed on [[the]] outer surface of the case,
[[(2)]]] the releasing member has guide arms that slide in the guide grooves, and
[[(3)]]] the guide arms and the lock piece are ~~joined together by means of a~~ are interconnected by the pin.
6. (Currently amended) The fastening device described in claim 2, wherein
[[(1)]]] the case has a slope that extends away from the axial member in the insertion direction of the axial member, and
[[(2)]]] ~~there are formed in the case (a) a tapered section on which the lock pieces slide, and (b) a supporting wall that faces the tapered section and supports the outer surface of the axial member with which the lock pieces engage~~ the lock piece has an angled surface which is configured to slide on the slope.
7. (Currently amended) The fastening device described in claim 3, wherein
[[(1)]]] the case has a slope that extends away from the axial member in the insertion direction of the axial member, and
[[(2)]]] ~~there are formed in the case (a) a tapered section on which the lock pieces slide, and (b) a supporting wall that faces the tapered section and supports the outer surface of the axial member with which the lock pieces engage~~ the lock piece has an angled surface which is configured to slide on the slope.